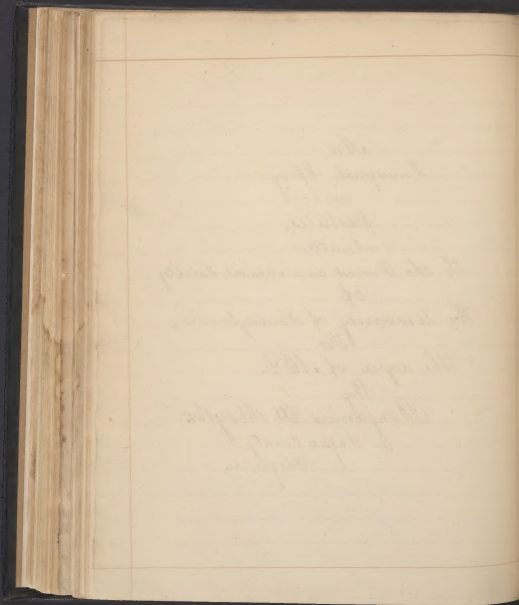


An
Inaugural Essay
on
Gastritis,
Submitted
To the Provost and Medical Faculty
of
The University of Pennsylvania;
For
The degree of M.D.
By
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Superior County
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Gastritis.

Gastritis is by most nosologists, divided into two species; Viz. Phlegmonic and Erythematic; according as it attacks the nervous or peritoneal coats of the stomach, or the villous coat and cellular texture immediately subjacent to it. -

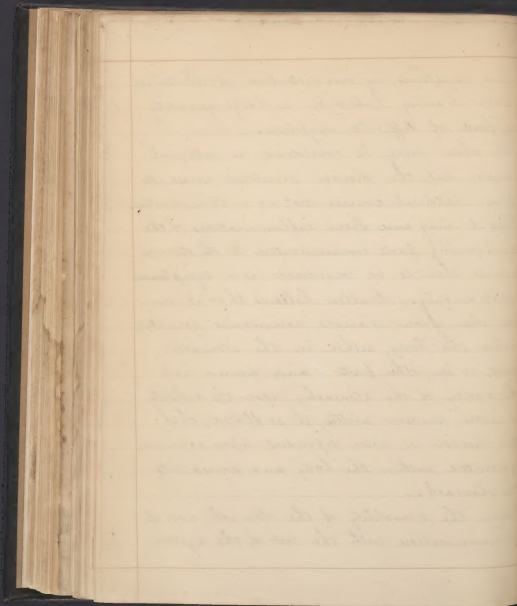
Cullen believes that the first of these may be seated in the nervous coat of the stomach, or in the peritoneum investing it, and the second species he supposes is always seated in the villous coat and cellular texture lying under it; - But this perhaps cannot be a cause of much difference; -

Gastritis, may arise from all the ordinary causes of inflammation, such as cold, stimulating or acrid matters swallowed, by external contusion, or violence, repelled eruptions, retrocedent gout, frequently by very cold drink taken into the stomach when the body is very warm,

and sometimes by over distention of the stomach from having taken in a large quantity of food of difficult digestion. -

All these may be considered as external causes; but the disease sometimes arises also from internal causes not so well understood; Thus it may arise from inflammations of the neighbouring parts communicated to the stomach, and is then to be considered as a symptomatic affection only. - Cullen believes that it may also arise from various acrimonies generated within the body, either in the stomach itself, or in other parts and poured into the cavity of the stomach; Upon the authority of more modern writers, it is stated, that this disease is never dependent upon acrimonies generated within the body and poured into the stomach. -

From the sensibility of the stomach, and its communication with the rest of the system,



it will be evident that the inflammation of this organ, by whatever cause produced may be attended with fatal consequences; particularly by the great debility which such an inflammation suddenly produces, it may quickly prove fatal, without running the ordinary course of inflammations; - Should it last sufficiently long to follow the common course of other inflammations, it may terminate by resolution, gangrene, or suppuration. The tendency of this disease to admit of resolution may be known by its having been produced from no violent cause, by the moderate state of the symptoms, and by a gradual diminution of these symptoms; especially in consequence of remedies employed in the course of the first or second week of the disease; - Again, a tendency of the disease to suppuration may be known, by the symptoms continuing in a moderate degree,

for more than one or two weeks, and likewise
by a considerable remission of the pain, while
a sense of weight and an anxiety still continue,
When an abscess has formed, the frequency
of the pulse is at first abated, but in a
short time after it is again increased, with
frequent cold shiverings, and marked exacerbations
in the afternoon and evening, succeeded by night
sweatings, and other symptoms of hectic fever: -
These at length prove fatal, unless the abscess opens
into the cavity of the stomach, the pus be evacuated, X
by vomiting, and the ulcer soon heal; - Lastly, the
tendency to gangrene may be suspected from the
violence of the symptoms not yielding to the
remedies employed during the first days of the
disease; and that a gangrene has already begun,
may be known from the sudden remission of
the pain, while the frequency of the pulse
continues, and at the same time becomes,
weaker, attended with other symptoms of

increasing debility in the whole system. —
The symptoms of Gastritis, an acute pain in
the stomach, burning, irritability, and frequent
vomiting; the pulse is commonly small and
hard, not quick in the commencement of the
disease, and there is a greater loss of strength
in all the vibrations of the body than in
almost any other inflammation, ~~now~~ in the
advanced stage of this disease, there is tension
of the epigastrium and costal regions, uncommon
prostration of strength, the pulse is small, hard,
center, and contracted; The disease is very rapid
in its course, and if not arrested an aggravation
of all these symptoms takes place, and particularly
of the debility; the patient has now so little strength
that he cannot be raised without fainting, his
eyes are wild, his countenance haggard, his pulse
feeble, a hiccough, and a discharge of dark
matter takes place, similar to the black vomit; —
There is now a considerable distention of the abdomen



of mind, thus an effect to the presence of
gangrene, is symptoms of its existence; -
In addition to these regular symptoms, there are
many others which are anomalous, these are
called delusory symptoms; thus sometimes pain
takes place in the spot too resembling that
of Cholera, likewise inflammations are seen
in the groin; Dr. Keapick has ~~formerly~~ ^{now} known
have in the peritonitis of women to attend the
inflammation of the stomach in yellow fever,
and believes the highest degree of pain always
denotes a fatal termination. In some cases
a tickle is felt in a tight, inflamed stomach,
a spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the
same, also a headache for 1 day, and intolerance
of light; - In the treatment of Peritonitis, we
have to deal with an active inflammation
extending in a vital organ, and repair in its
course; Our duty is then to meet it with the
most powerful and efficient means; In this



inflammation, consequently the best remedy is
amputation, regardless of the pulse and of the
prostration of strength, we should boldly apply
the lancet and freely and copiously deplete;—
In the early stage of this disease, we should
take from the arm $\frac{1}{2}$ XX. or XXX of blood, at
one bleeding, but should this not answer, we
must repeat the operation to the same extent;—
Dr. Chapman relates a case in which $\frac{1}{2}$ 200 of
blood were taken in a short time;— Many
practitioners bleed partially and repeatedly in
this disease, the practice however is a most
pernicious one;— The pulse and fever are no
guides for us here. — It is one of the
peculiarities of Erysipelas, that the strength of
the whole body, especially that of the circulation is
so much impaired that there is neither fever nor
power, — But as we abstract from the mass of blood,
the powers of the system are unaided, and we
then have to treat an open case of inflammation.



In this disease a disturbed state of the system is dependant upon too much stimulus, it has been illustrated by Sydenham, and much more by the Dispeptics of America, the late Dr Benjamin Rush, states as next in importance to the sweat, as the disease is primarily seated in the stomach, they should be applied to the region of that organ; - considering the urgency of the case the blister should be large enough to cover the whole of the stomach; - This is the only way by which we can derive their greatest advantage; when they are small, we obtain from them but little advantage, but when large they do us no injury and become very efficacious; - Cooperating to the same end fomentations may be applied to the abdomen, such as large bladders of hot water or towels immersed in hot water or spirituous liquors and wrung out. - In consequence of the great irritability of the



stomach in Gastritis, we are precluded from the use of internal remedies per os, which are invariably rejected;— It however becomes necessary to open the bowels, and this should be accomplished by emollient injections, and as their action is mechanical, they must be very mild, and therefore should be large, as half a pint of warm water with sweet oil and molasses, and as the object is not only evacuation but also fomentation, they must be frequently repeated, pro re nata;— As soon as the stomach is able to bear any thing, oil or Calomel must be given as laxatives; Calomel is to be preferred to the oil; One of the peculiarities of Calomel is that it may be administered in cases of inflamed bowels without any apprehension of its aggravating the disease; indeed it seems calculated to reduce the inflammation;— Given in bolus, it will be retained by the stomach without giving



any officer in a majority of cases; -
The sulphate of magnesia is also well suited
to these cases; this of all the salines proves
the least irritating; - It may be frequently
exhibited and will be retained when every
other article is rejected; - We should carefully
endeavour to calm the stomach from the
commencement of the disease; - The best remedy
for this purpose is lime water and milk; -
But cases sometimes occur in which decided
advantage is derived from anodyne injections;
these soothe pain, abate irritability of the
stomach, and produce general compression; at
this time the warm bath will be found to
display effects very astonishing; poultices are
of much importance; - It is the practice
of some physicians to administer large draughts
of drinks, they are however pernicious; they
offend the stomach by their quantity and keep
up a continual vomiting; - The thirst in



this disease of which the patient so much complains is more effectually allayed by a moderate quantity of new milk than by copious drinks; - Mint-tea, and toast and water are also of much benefit in abating the thirst; - The warm bath has been highly extolled in the treatment of Gastritis; It is of advantage, but it should not be used until after we have employed the depleting measures; then it will be found of much advantage, not only by inducing perspiration and giving the disease a centrifugal character, but also by comforting the patient and allaying irritation; But after all, venesection and blisters are the sovereign remedies in this disease; - They should be largely and repeatedly employed; Venesection must be practised in the very early stages of the disease, and we should be intrepid in the use of the lancet; If however reserved in a moderate degree, we will



is in good, without regard to all the
counter indications, we should bleed until we
find relief; - Having done this blood should
be employed, and in a majority of cases we
shall have the happiness to eradicate the
disease; - After the other means have proved
ineffectual, opium should be used to prevent
suffering, and when this cannot be given
we should employ the spirits of turpentine; -
In addition to the cases before mentioned,
- & other conditions arise from poisons taken into
the stomach; - The actions of these on the stomach
produce numerous and diversified effects; the
burn poison, is altogether static, as regards the
dose taken and the individual constitution;
what in a state of health would be temporary,
might prove fruitful under opposite circumstances.
Poisons have been variously arranged, but we
shall speak of them under the two divisions of
Vascular, and Corrosive poisons, by the first



11. *Opium* is most frequently taken to a dangerous extent, either from accident or with an intention to commit suicide; Under such circumstances the first indication would be to excite vomiting as quickly as possible, and for this purpose, the most active means should be employed. - The best emetic in this case will be a combination of Tartar Emetic and Ipecacuanha; The sulphate of Copper is considered as eminently suited to cases of poison. Although these emetics are very prompt in their operation in most cases, yet when poisons have been taken into the stomach, there exists so much torpor of that organ, that they must be given in much larger doses than ordinary; It is proper to give from grs. VI. to VIII of Tartar Emetic in combination with grs. XX. or XXX of Ipecacuanha. - Should this fail to excite vomiting the dose should be repeated. - It sometimes happens that there is such loss of susceptibility in

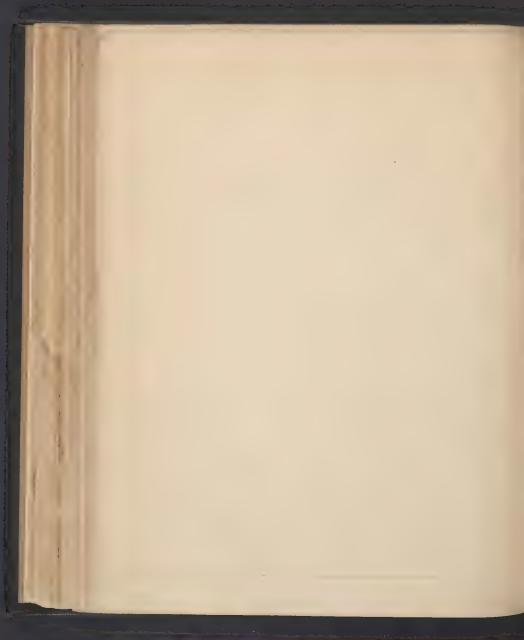
the stomach that no medicine will excite vomiting, in this case the distention of the stomach with warm water has sometimes produced the effect. — but a quart or two will be requisite, — Cataplasms of Tobacco applied to the epigastric region are amongst the best and most efficacious means of exciting vomiting; they here frequently produce that effect when every thing else had failed, All that is necessary, is to take a bundle of the leaves and immerse them in vinegar, and apply them; ʒj. of Tartar Emetic will often in these cases of torpor of the stomach produce vomiting when given in the form of enema, sometimes this effect may be obtained, by occasionally thrusting a finger into the fauces, and it is a notorious fact, that insensibility of the fauces remains after it has been completely destroyed in the stomach by narcotic poisons. — But should all the means above mentioned prove ineffectual, we must then resort to the use of an instrument-



which Dr. Physick strenuously recommends in these cases; It is simply a catheter through which large quantities of fluids are conveyed into the stomach and again drawn out, and in this way the organ is literally washed out;— There are sometimes cases occurring, when notwithstanding the complete evacuation of the stomach of all its contents, the impression of the poison remains;— It is necessary that we should here combat the deleterious effects of the poison upon the system;— Our first duty then, is to stop stupor and stertorous breathing; to counteract this tendency it has been recommended to keep the patient in continual motion; and if nothing else will answer to shake him violently and repeatedly. — Much more good may be expected from inducing a counter impression by synapisms applied to the extremities, or by stimulating injections; In this way Dr. Chapman has ^{sometimes} ~~often~~ known



the disposition to sleep completely overcome, —
It has been recommended to produce the
counter irritation by whipping the patient,
this was deduced from an experiment made
on a dog by Boerhaave. — Notwithstanding the
effects of opium are of a most baneful nature
in this extremity, though the largest dose was
given to the animal, it forced towards and
lost from the counter irritation produced by
whipping; in these cases the vegetable acids may
be used as salubrious at least; the volatile alkali
has been highly spoken of in these cases; Dr
Chapman has often known a table spoonful
of the volatile pulch or aqua ammonia to overcome
the tendency to sleep; — But after the employment
of all these means, it sometimes happens that we
cannot resist the occurrence of fever and
irritation to the brain. The treatment here
is not peculiar, it is to be conducted upon the
general principles which are applicable to these.



affections arising from other causes. It should
however be recollected by us, that those effects when
produced by the action of narcotics, will not admit
of resection to any great extent, and must be
treated with cordial^l remedies after it. Strong
coffee is a good corrective of the narcotic effects
of opium. - To the general treatment of affections
resulting from all poisons there is one exception,
that is, when they proceed from Digitalis,
and its kindred articles such as Solanec, Linnæ,
and Belladonna, it is found that the diffusible
stimulants, even opium itself, are the most
serviceable remedies. - Volatile Alkali, and the
Spiritu^m • Marylandica, have been highly spoken
of.

The treatment of corrosive poisons, is nearly
similar to that of narcotic poisons; Emetics and
the other articles before mentioned for combating
narcotics, are equally the same to be used in
these cases, but there is this difference respecting



the mineral poisons; that is, that we have some reason to confide in antidotes, or such substances as have the effect of neutralizing those poisons. There has been a great deal written on this subject by some of the ablest men in Europe. - They pursued their investigations with industry and every probability of certainty, having warranted them of the result in the following results. Viz. That albumen is an antidote to corrosive sublimate, it decomposes it, and converts it into an inert and harmless substance. - We should therefore in cases of corrosive sublimate being taken into the stomach, after puking our patient, administer the whole of an egg, this is a convenient measure. - As to obtain the efficacy of the albumen of eggs, to the greatest advantage, we should give them in large quantities, ten or fifteen are not too many. - 2nd Laccarium substances, as syrups are antidotes to rubebris



or the acetate of copper, to be thoroughly
effectual in correcting the properties of this
substance, saccharine matter must be given in
large quantities, and it produces this happy
effect, that as soon as taken it terminates
the acute sufferings of the patient, and then
by its purgative power it sweeps out the poison
that has been taken into the stomach; - 3rd.
Milk is an antidote to the murate of tin,
by a chemical action which takes place
the corrosive powers of the murate are destroyed,
but it will be best to exhibit the milk with
large quantities of the murate of soda; In
solution the murate of soda will also act
as an antidote to silver; This should be
recollected by us, as nitrate of silver is
occasionally employed in practice and bad
effects will sometimes result from it; 4th. The
sulphates of soda and magnesia are antidotes to
the preparations of Lead and Barytes, especially

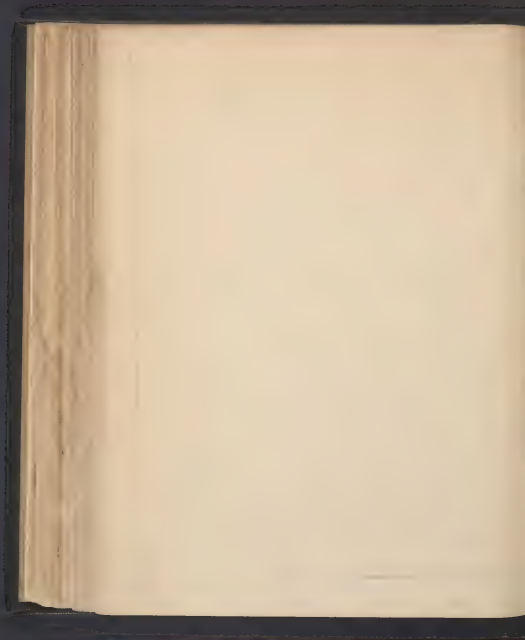


to the acetate of Lead; 5^{thly} strong secretions
of Lark, common Teas, a decoction of galls, and
all powerful astringents are antidotes to Tartar
emetic and the other antimonial preparations;
6^{thly} Carcinex Magnesia is an antidote to
the mineral acids, but should be administered
early and in large doses to be efficacious;
7^{thly} Acetic acid or very strong vinegar is an antidote
to the Alkalis; - As yet we have no antidote to
arsenic upon which we can fully rely; It was
believed by Bertraw a French physician and
surgcon, that Carion proposed that valuable
property, he even went so far as to say that
a man experienced it on himself with a view
to ascertain this fact, he states that in the
morning he swallowed a large dose of arsenic
and as soon as he began to feel its effects
he swallowed a tumbler of charcoal and
water, which entirely suspended them; he
further states that he made experiments on



trials of a similar nature and with similar results; - This position however, has lately been shown to be erroneous; - The antidotes, which have been enumerated come to us under the highest authority, we should however receive them with doubts; - They should not be resorted to before we have tried emetics and the other remedies above mentioned. - It will be time enough to administer them after evacuations have been made from the stomach, then they may be given to correct the deleterious tendency of any of the poison that may remain. - But for arsenic, it must be stated that we have no remedy, except vomiting and an antidote is still a desideratum. -

By vomiting however the whole will not be rejected, and a very small quantity may prove fatal. - All that we can do after giving emetics is to administer copiously the demulcent drinks, such as gum arabic and water, flax seed tea and other demulcent drinks.



Oils must be studiously avoided, for they give activity to the poison; notwithstanding however all our efforts the most alarming effects will result from the introduction of this poison into the stomach; From the inflammation of the stomach fever will occur similar to the yellow fever; we must in this case bleed copiously and apply blisters to the region of the stomach, and exercise all our means for calming the irritability of the stomach; But in cases of the system becoming completely under the influence of arsenic this treatment will not always answer. — The patient sinks and becomes completely prostrated with vomiting, low delirium, and other marks of increasing debility. — If the poison remain the case is forlorn, we should here use the spirits of Turpentine, both by the stomach and rectum; —

I have now detailed the causes, symptoms, and treatment of Gastritis, arising both from

the ordinary causes, and from poisons being
received into the stomach, and now take leave
of the subject, trusting enough has been said,
to direct us in the successful treatment of
the disease. —

Benjamin H. Meyer.

the same time, and from various things
which are the subject of the same
the subject of the same thing
the same as in the subject of the same
thing.

Capitulum 10. 11. 12.